

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 OES-07 DLOS-09 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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P R 110530Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7241

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INJUHTP6AMEMBASSY TAIPEI 27

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SUVA 0566

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, FJ

SUBJECT: FIJI TO CLAIM ARCHIPELAGO STATUS

1. IN COURSE OF A COURTESY CALL ON PERMANENT SECRETARY OF FOREIGN OFFICE IN INQUIRED ABOUT REPEATED PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT FIJI WAS ABOUT TO ISSUE DECLARATION ESTABLISHING 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. SECRETARY REPLIED THAT THESE REPORTS WERE IN ERROR BECAUSE WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS EXPECTED TO SIGN IN A DAY OR TWO IS DECLARATION ESTABLISHING /ARCHIPELAGIC REGIME" BY CONFIDENTIAL

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DRAWING OUTER BASIC LINES AND CLAIMING 12 MILE SOVEREIGN LIMITS BEYONE THESE LINES. HE WENT ON TO MENTION THAT INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPPINES WERE THE OTHER TWO COUNTRIES IN THE AREA WHICH ARE CLAIMING SUCH ARCHIPELAGO STATUS BUT HAD NOT REALIZED UNTIL I POINTED THIS OUT TO HIM THAT FIJI WILL BE THE FIRST TO ISSUE SUCH A UNILATERAL DECLARATION CLAIMING THIS SPECIAL STATUS.

2. I TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT I WILL BE REPORTING HIS INFORMATION TO WASHINGTON AND ASKED HIM TO LET ME KNOW IMMEDIATELY AS SOON AS NFKNH DECLARATION HAS BEEN IN FACT SIGNED BY THE PRIME MINISTER. HE AGREED TO DO SO OFFERING TO SEND ME COPY OF THE DECLARATION AND THE MAP ON WHICH THE ARCHPELAGIC BOUNDARIES WILL BE DRAWN.

3. SECRETARY WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE DECLARATION OF A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WILL BE MADE AT SOME LATER DATE PENDING NEGOTIATION WITH FIVE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WITH WHICH PROBLEM OF OVERLAPPING OF ECONOMIC ZONES EXISTS.

4. WHEN QUESTION OF FIJI'S ABILITY TO POLICE ARCHIPELAGO WATERS AND EXTENDED ECONOMIC ZONE WAS RAISED HE CONCEDED THAT THAT IS INDEED A PROBLEM AND THEREIN LIES THE REASON FOR WHICH FIJI IS SO VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE SUCCESS OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. SMALL COUNTRIES SAID HE CAN RELY ONLY ON THE EXISTENCE AND RESPECT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS.

5. ON THE WAY TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE SECRETARY INTRODUCED ME TO THE SECRETARY OF THE CABINET WHO CONFIRMED ABOVE REGARDING FORTHCOMING DECLARATION OF ARCHIPELAGIC REGIME BY FIJI.
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PLOS, FJ
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